GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2777
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
TESTING OF FERTILIZER SAMPLES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conduct any sample analysis of the fertilizers, insecticides and chemicals from the entire country;

(b) if so, the name of the laboratories from where these analysis are conducted in various States;

(c) the details of the target of testing of fertilizer samples fixed and achieved during 2003-04 and 2004-05 by such laboratories in the country;

(d) the number of samples of fertilizers, insecticides and chemicals found sub-standard;

(e) the action taken against the manufacturers of such samples during the said period; and

(f) the steps taken to make the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 more user friendly in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The samples of fertilizers and insecticides are periodically drawn by State Enforcement Agencies and tested to ensure their quality as per the provisions of Fertiliser (Control) Order,1985 and Insecticide Act, 1968 respectively. There are 67 fertiliser quality control testing laboratories including 4 laboratories of the Central Government. There are 46 Pesticide Testing laboratories in the States and two notified Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories of the Central Government. State-wise location of fertilizer testing laboratories, their analyzing capacity & sample analysed during 2003-04 & 2004-05 is given in Annexure I and location of Pesticide Testing Laboratories is given in Annexure II.

(d): During the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 the number of samples of fertilizer and insecticides found non standard are as under: -

Year	Fertiliser	Insecticides
2003-04	5785	1752
2004-05	6535	1795

(e): State Governments are adequately empowered under the provision of Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985/Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Insecticides Act, 1968 to take administrative and legal action against those found indulged in mal practices of selling non standard fertilizer/insecticide which includes prosecution, besides administrative action, like suspension/cancellation of authorization letter, Certificate of manufacture of manufacturer, suspension and cancellation of licence.

(f): The Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 is periodically reviewed and need based amendments are made. It has recently been amended during 2003 to make it more user friendly. This includes dispensing with the requirement of registration certificate of dealers and its replacement with a simple system of memorandum of intimation for carry on the business of selling of fertilizer, providing grievances redressal mechanism to the aggrieved party through the provision of referee analysis and tolerance limits in physical parameters, reduction in the time limit from drawal of sample to finally communication of the results to the dealers from 97 to 52 days, restandardization of cut or torn fertilizer bags in the field and reprocessing of damaged fertilizers due to natural calamities and the provision of commercial trial of provisional fertilizers besides printing Maximum Retail Price(MRP) on fertilizer bags and also the month/year of manufacture/import etc.